



## Aberdeen Planning and Economic Development

### City of Aberdeen Begins Preparation of a Critical Areas Ordinance

October 2007

#### CAO Development Timeline and Public Meeting Schedule

##### **Planning Commission Sessions to discuss and review the CAO:**

Starting December 13, and through April 2008, the Planning Commission will be reviewing proposed CAO requirements and language at its meetings.

##### **Public Meetings and Review:**

January 10, 2008:  
Informational Meeting  
**Time TBD w/L.Scott**  
Aberdeen City Hall  
200 E Market Street  
Aberdeen, WA 98520.

February 2008:  
Public review of Draft CAO

February 21, 2008:  
Public Open House  
**Time TBD w/L.Scott**  
Aberdeen City Hall  
200 E Market Street  
Aberdeen, WA 98520.

##### **Adoption Schedule:**

April 2008: Planning Commission  
Recommendation to City Council

May-June 2008: City Council  
consideration and adoption.

You can get information about this process by visiting the City's website [www.aberdeeninfo.com](http://www.aberdeeninfo.com) and selecting the **community development page**, or by contacting the Planning Department at:

200 E Market Street  
Aberdeen, WA 98520.  
360.537.3238  
[lscott@aberdeeninfo.com](mailto:lscott@aberdeeninfo.com)

#### Why is a new ordinance needed?

Under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) all counties and cities within their boundaries are required to protect certain natural resources called "critical areas". Although Aberdeen is not required to plan under the GMA, the City is still required to designate and protect critical areas through a Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). This ordinance must be adopted by December 1, 2008.

#### What are Critical Areas?

In Aberdeen "critical areas" include five types of areas and ecosystems:

- Wetlands
- Fish and wildlife conservation areas (including rivers, streams and shorelines);
- Frequently flooded areas
- Geologic hazard areas (including steep slopes and land-slide prone areas); and
- Aquifer recharge areas

These areas need protection because they either pose potential hazards to public health and safety, or because they possess special ecological values whose well-being is important to the overall health of Aberdeen's natural and built environment. In developing the ordinance, the city will have to give consideration to "Best Available Science" and to preservation and enhancement of existing salmon (and other anadromous fish) resources.

#### How will the City develop its Critical Areas Ordinance?

The ordinance is required to designate critical areas and to develop ways to protect these areas. These regulations are intended to control unintended impacts of new development in critical areas, while balancing healthy long term community growth.

The CAO will be developed in several phases, including work sessions conducted by the Planning Commission starting in December 2007 and release of a draft CAO for public review in February 2008. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the City Council, and the Council will adopt the ordinance in early summer 2008.

#### Your participation is needed!

Joint efforts with citizens are a key in how changes are made to the way Aberdeen manages environmentally sensitive areas. The City encourages public involvement and feedback throughout the process to find ways to protect the natural resources while meeting the needs of the community. You can participate by:

- Attending the Planning Commission's meetings starting in December 2007
- Attending and participating in the informational and open house meetings scheduled in January and February 2008
- Providing comment on the draft CAO when it is issued for review

